

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Eager to hear more about the unprecedented federal investment in change that will shortly be rolling out of Washington, 21 mayors from across Ohio's Sixth Congressional District dialed into a conference call with Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today. Wilson invited all mayors from across the district to call in to find out more about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"We will likely be voting in the House tomorrow on this compromise recovery package that the House and Senate have crafted," Wilson said. "I'm excited about it. I think we need it. I firmly believe it's a victory for our country, for our economy and for our communities, in particular, that have been hurting for so long."

America faces the worst economic crisis since The Great Depression. As a result of 8 years of failed policies, 3.6 million American jobs have been lost since this recession began. Currently the economy is shedding 10,000 – 20,000 jobs per day.

"Our choice was action vs. inaction. I'm voting for action," Wilson said. "Who would stand by and do nothing while their community, their country falls off a cliff?"

Wilson reported that Congress is on track to pass the \$789 billion legislation that will invest quickly and begin to put our economy on sound footing for generations to come. It will:

- Create or save 3.5 million jobs
- Immediately cut taxes for 95% of American workers
- Begin an historic transformation of our economy, making us more globally competitive and energy independent for the 21st century
- Make unprecedented investments in our infrastructure to modernize our roads, bridges and mass transit, build energy efficient buildings and tackle clean water projects

"Show me a way to create jobs," East Liverpool Mayor, James Swoger, said. "We don't need to just feed people; we need to have a way for them to feed themselves."

Wilson agreed. "At its heart, that's what this is: a jobs bill," he said. "In fact, the White House says this recovery package will create 133,000 jobs in Ohio. 7,100 of those jobs will be created in Ohio's 6th District."

The mayors on the call expressed support for the Recovery Package. Many shared that they have shovel-ready projects they would like to see funded through the package.

"I have 4 projects I can think of right off the bat," Village of Rio Grande Mayor, Robert "Matt" Easter, said.

"We're an older establishment and our streets and sidewalks are in need of repairs," Wellsville Village Mayor, Joseph Surace, said. "Hopefully this money will give us a shot in the arm hopefully this could help everybody."

"We appreciate it," said Phil Wallace, Mayor of Martins Ferry.

Wilson encouraged them all to submit their projects to the Governor's website: www.recovery.ohio.gov. All shovel-ready projects must be submitted to that site to be considered by the state. The federal money for infrastructure projects will be distributed by the states.

Ohio's Sixth Congressional District includes part of all of Mahoning, Columbiana, Jefferson, Belmont, Monroe, Noble, Washington, Athens, Meigs, Gallia, Lawrence and Scioto counties.

Congressman Wilson has represented Ohio's Sixth District since 2007. He is working to restore the economy, achieve energy independence, and ensure the inclusion of rural America as our country's healthcare system is reformed.